Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02159 101220Z

14
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

ACDA-05 SSM-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 USIE-00 H-01 L-01 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 IO-03 SAM-01 SAB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 /050 W
---------- 070199
O 101120Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8938
INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2159

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, LE
SUBJ: RUMORS OF MILITARY COUP

1. DATT HAS PICKED UP TALK FROM SEVERAL LEBANESE ARMY OFFICERS APPARENTLY FAVORING A SO-CALLED "WHILE COUP", I.E. TAKEOVER OF GOVERNMENT BY LOYALIST LEBANESE ARMY IN ORDER TO EFFECT A CONCILIATION WITH RENEGADE LEBANESE ARAB ARMY UNDER LT. KHATIB IN THE SOUTH. SUCH TALK HAS APPARENTLY COME AS A RESULT OF SNOWBALL EFFECT TAKING PLACE SINCE YESTERDAY WITH LEBANESE ARMY POSITIONS IN THE SOUTH GOING OVER TO KHATIB'S FORCES ONE AFTER THE OTHER AND SIMILAR EFFECT BEGINNING IN TRIPOLI AREA WHERE MAJOR MAMARI COMMANDS SOME MOSLEM RENEGADE TROOPS. RATIONALE WOULD BE THAT YOUNGER OFFICERS, MANY OF THEM CHRISTIANS THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY MARONITES, COULD WITH SINGLE ACTION SWEEP OUT OLD GUARD POLITICOS AS WELL AS SOME MORE SENIOR OFFICERS, AND INSTALL REGIME WHICH WOUL DHAVE BETTER CHANCE OF UNIFYING THE COUNTRY POLITICALLY. IDEA WOULD BE THAT SYRIANS WOULD SUPPORT THE COUP EITHER BEFOREHAND OR AFTERWARDS. THERE ARE APPARENTLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02159 101220Z

SOME WELL PLACED GUNG-HO CHRISTIAN COMMANDERS TALKING

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

THIS WAY.

2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS POINT TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF SUCH REPORTS BUT THINK IT WORTH BRINGING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION AS OTHER WESTERN MILITARY ATTACHES ARE PICKING UP SAME RUMORS AND PRESS MAY GET THEM TOO. LACK OF SECRECY IN ITSELF TENDS TO UNDERCUT SERIOUSNESS OF THESE REPORTS, HOWEVER INDICATIVE THEY MAY BE OF EXCITED STATE OF MIND AMONG LOYALIST ARMY FORCES. WE SHALL NOT NOW EVEN BEGIN TO ANALYZE POSSIBLE RAMIFCATIONS OF SUCH A STEP SHOULD IT EVER COME TO PASS.
LMABRAKIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT02159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-0819
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760377/aaaacpyk.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORS OF MILITARY COUP
TAGS: PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006